



U.S. Department of Justice

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Western District of New York*

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PRESS RELEASE

August 18, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. TEJBIR OBEROI

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that DR. TEJBIR OBEROI, age 57, a resident of Amherst, New York, who had pled guilty on January 15, 2004, to one count of mail fraud, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1341, and one count of making a false statement relating to a health care benefit, in violation Title 18 United States Code, Section 1035, was sentenced yesterday to 63 months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$224,679 in restitution by the Honorable Richard J. Arcara, United States District Court Judge. The Judge ordered that the restitution be paid to eleven health insurance plans victimized by the defendant.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorneys John E. Rogowski and Anthony M. Bruce, who handled the prosecution of the case against OBEROI, the defendant, who had his office in downtown Buffalo at 74 Niagara Street, directly across from the federal courthouse, submitted numerous fraudulent claims to dental benefit plans

insuring his patients in which he falsely claimed to have completed dental work which was not performed. This criminal conduct took place from at least 1994 through December 1999. The evidence further showed that the defendant maintained falsified patient files which falsely reflected that the non-rendered services had been performed. The proof in the case also included statements of a number of the defendant's former patients who described how they would repeatedly go to the defendant's office thinking he was going finish a previously started root canal procedure only to realize, after the fact, that the defendant had, without informing them, drilled a root canal in another tooth without completing the work on the first tooth.

In imposing the sentence, Judge Arcara ruled that the evidence established that, as part of the defendant's criminal scheme and his efforts to cover-up his criminal activity, the defendant performed unnecessary dental procedures on a number of patients which caused physical injury to those patients. The Judge further ordered that the defendant serve 3 years of supervised release after being released from jail and that he not engage in the practice of dentistry during that time. The Judge went on to say that it was his sincere hope that the defendant never be allowed to practice dentistry again.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation conducted by the Western New York Health Care Fraud Task Force

consisting of agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, United States Department of Health and Human Services, United States Postal Inspection Service, United States Department of Defense - Criminal Investigation Service, and the New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau.